



ABUTMENT - The part of the valley side against which the dam is constructed.

ANTECEDENT RAINFALL EVENT – A rainfall event that would precede the probable maximum precipitation event.

BASE SAFETY CONDITION (BSC) – The smallest flood event where there is no significant increase in loss of life and/or economic loss with or without dam failure.

BEACHING - The removal by wave action of a portion of the upstream slope of the embankment, and the depositing of the material farther down the slope. Characterized by a resulting flat area or beach.

BREACH - An eroded opening through a dam embankment that allows uncontrolled discharge from the reservoir.

CREST - The top surface of the dam embankment.

DEFICIENCY - An anomaly or condition that affects or interferes with the proper and safe operation of the dam.

DRY DAM – A reservoir where no water is stored during non-flooding periods.

DOWNSTREAM TOE (TOE OF DAM) - The junction of the downstream slope of the dam with the ground surface.

EARTHFILL DAM - A dam containing more than 50 percent, by volume, earth fill materials (fill composed of soil and rock materials that are predominantly gravel sizes or smaller).

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement.

TAINTER GATE – A steel gate structure used to control flow over a spillway.

OGEE CREST – A spillway crest that conforms to the natural shape of flowing water.

LABYRINTH – a saw-toothed weir that increases the effective weir length and efficiency.

FUSE PLUG – A spillway plug made to erode and provide full flow area when it is overtopped

COLLAPSIBLE GATES – Spillway gates raised and lowered by a rubber tire like bladder.

ER – Engineering Regulation used as guidance for Corps of Engineer Policy.

EM – Engineering Manual provide design criteria guidance for various engineering applications.

FREEBOARD - The vertical distance between a reference water level and the top of a dam.

LOSS OF LIFE (LOL) – Potential loss of lives for the stated event and based on the threatened population.



NWS – National Weather Service.

OUTLET WORKS - A drainage structure through which normal reservoir releases are made, and which also can be used to drain the reservoir.

POPULATION AT RISK (PAR) – Those persons that would be exposed to flood waters if they took no measures to evacuate

PROBABLE MAXIMUM FLOOD (PMF) – The most severe flood that is considered reasonably possible for a given drainage basin based on hydrologic and extreme meteorological conditions.

PROBABLE MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION (PMP) - The greatest maximum depth of precipitation over a given drainage basin based on extreme meteorological conditions.

RELIEF WELLS - Vertical wells or bore holes designed to collect and control seepage through or under a dam.

RESERVOIR - The body of water impounded by a dam.

RIPRAP - Broken rock or boulders placed on upstream and downstream slopes of embankment dams to provide protection from erosion.

SEEPAGE - The passage of water through the embankment or foundation materials.

SOIL CEMENT - A well-compacted mixture of soil, Portland Cement, and water that produces a hard material similar to concrete.

SPILLWAY - A structure over or through which flood flows are discharged. If the rate of flow is controlled by mechanical means, such as gates, it is considered a controlled spillway. A spillway is considered “uncontrolled” when gates or other structures are not present to control the release of water.

THREATENED POPULATION (TP) – Persons remaining in flooded areas after warning and evacuation has been initiated and who are actually exposed to the floodwaters.

THRESHOLD FLOOD (TF) – An inflow event that will exceed the design criteria of the dam and threaten dam failure.

TOE DRAIN – A drainage system at the toe of the dam that carries internal seepage water away from the dam.

WEIR - A structure built to control or measure flow across a stream or channel.